IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 2485

International Court of Justice

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Testimony of FRITZ SAUCKEL, taken at Nuremberg, Germany, on 5 October 1945, 1030 - 1200, by Major John J. Monigan, Jr., CAC, OUSCC. Also present: Siegfried Ramler, Interpreter, and S/Sgt William A. Weigel, Court Reporter.

MAJOR MONIGAN TO THE INTERPRETER:

Q Do you solemnly swear that you will well and accurately translate from English into German and from German into English the testimony taken here today, so help you God?

A I do.

MAJOR MONIGAN TO THE WITNESS THROUGH THE INTERPRETER:

Q You are reminded that you are still under oath.

I would like to talk initially this morning about the relation regarding the transport of workers, foreign workers, the relation between the DAF and your organization regarding the transport of foreign workers into the Reich. In 1943 there was an agreement between you and Dr. Ley regarding this matter?

A Yes.

Q Now, what was the effect of that agreement on the conditions as they existed before?

A The purpose of this agreement was that the DAF should give care to the workers in the railways during their transport.

Q Before the time of this agreement, whose mission was it to give the care to the workers in the transports?

A Before that, it was the task of the personnel of the military administration from the respective countries the workers came from. They were even people that were subordinate to me, but they also be-

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longed to the military administration of the respective countries.

Q Before 1943, then, the time of this agreement, the organization whose task it was to fill the quotas which were laid down had the additional task of caring for the workers up until the time they were removed to the trans ient labor camps, is that right?

A As far as I remember, yes, but all these were things which I had to clear up and which were not clear before my entry into office, and the clearing up of these affairs took some time. I cannot give any details as to that, because, firstly, I had to take over this system the way I found it.

Q That is from the period from March until June?

A Yes; approximately, yes.

Q In the framework of the DAF, was it Mende who had the mission of caring for these workers under the supervision of Dr. Ley?

A Yes. Mende was assigned to this task by Dr. Ley.

Q It is my recollection that there were reports of the DAF in the various labor offices in the occupied countries, is that right?

A I cannot say with certainty how far this has been the case, but, for instance, in France, in the Embassy of France, there was one man who concerned himself with these things. At the moment I cannot remember his name.

Q Were there any transient labor camps within the borders of Germany?

A There were transient camps inside the borders of Germany, mostly one in each Gau, and in all those camps a physical examination

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was carried out.

Q Before this agreement in '43, whose mission was it to supervise these camps?

A This was the mission of the labor administration.

Q That is the DAF?

A No. They had already existed when I came along, and they were supervised by the Minister of Labor; that is, by me.

Q And then after this agreement was made, the mission of supervising such camps went to the DAF?

A I cannot say that with certainty. I do not know how far the DAF took over the care for these camps. In these camps the workers were distributed, and I am sure that Dr. Timm would be able to give better information concerning this. Only a few days were spent by the workers in these camps. I have continually tried to improve the conditions of these camps, because at the time I found them, they were in a very primitive condition.

Q You have testified that inspections of these camps and the working conditions inside the factories were made from time to time, and reports sent in to your department?

A Yes.

Q Were such reports in the framework of your department Nine?

A Yes. Department Nine, too. These camps were visited by the Inspection of Department Nine, and also by my labor staff.

Q When conditions were reported in the camps which required improvement, whose task was it to see that such corrections were made?

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A This was Dr. Timm's task, whom I gave orders to do that. I especially gave the order to President Jung, who had charge of Department Nine, but the execution of these orders was the task of Dr. Timm.

Q What was the composition of the personnel who made these inspections with regard to personnel from your section and personnel from the DAF?

A These inspections were mostly carried out by Inspection Department Nine, and there was usually a man represented there who had a very high position, such as President, and so on, and who was mostly released by the reorganization of the land labor offices to the Gau labor offices. Dr. Ley's inspection, which mostly had to care for the welfare of the camps, was mostly done by the personnel from Dr. Ley's office.

Q What were the particular items which were looked into by the personnel from your department in inspections?

A It was the task of my Inspection Department to supervise the administration and to take any complaints that came to their ears, or that they found out at those inspections. They also had the task and the authorization to carry through improvements at the place immediately.

Q Improvements in the living conditions?

A Not so much living conditions, but bad housing conditions, such as faulty barracks and faulty furniture and so on.

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Q And it was possible for your representatives to improve those conditions?

A Yes, but that only applies to the transient camps, and not to the camps where the workers were already engaged in industry.

Q Once the records passed from the transient camps to the industrial establishments themselves, it was then that they fell within the care of the DAF; is that right?

A Yes. This is quite right, but they did not only come within the care of the DAF, but the factory leader was also responsible for their living conditions and welfare.

Q Is it not a fair statement that the responsibility within the industry itself was the responsibility of the Betriebsfuehrer and his personnel, plus the supervisory responsibility of the personnel directly from the DAF?

A Yes. This matches with my personal conviction. However, I am not sure about any special agreements which might have been waged between the Ministry of Speer and the DAF.

Q You mean for such industries as fell within the framework of Speer's armament industry?

A But generally according to German law, the factory leader was responsible for the order inside the factory.

Q Now, what was the mission of your special department with respect to these permanent labor establishments?

A If they ever visited an industrial establishment, it was only for the reasons of informative services, but usually it was the task

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of my special delegation to supervise the administration of the transient camps, as mentioned before, and also supervise the administration of the different labor offices. When any industrial establishments were actually visited, it was only usually done by the local agreements between the establishment and the offices. What I have mentioned before mainly concerns special Department Nine. However, members of my staff, who not only include people subordinate to me, but also people representing different other ministries, have often in their travels approached the Gauleiters or the representatives of the Gauleiters and have then, together with them, carried through inspections of industrial establishments.

I want to mention, too, that these two inspections, these are the inspections of Department Nine and the inspection of myself, were newly instituted by me, and, seeing that this constituted a very new thing for them, they had to work themselves in and get used to their work from the start.

Q Did your organization receive the reports of the inspections of industries which were made by the DAF personnel?

A Yes. Mende, as far as I know, often visited my personnel advisor and reports often came into Department Six.

Q That was Dr. Timm?

A Yes, that was Dr. Timm.

Q What was the purpose of sending such reports to your Department Six?

A Mainly to inform the Department Six, and then, as far as

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possible, obtain help.

Q What would be the nature of the assistance which Department Six could give the DAF in such matters?

A It was really a continual fight with Hitler and the responsible departments, seeing that I always had the interest of obtaining as good as possible living conditions for the foreign workers; that is, not only for the foreign workers, but also for the German workers, and I always conferred with authorities concerned with nourishment and agriculture, so as to see that they are cared for sufficiently well. I continued to point it out to my immediate superior, Reichsmarshal Goering, that no good production could be obtained from the workers if their nourishment was not sufficient. And I am sure Goering will be able to testify to that.

Q From the time at which you took office in 1942 until 1943 when this agreement with Dr. Ley concerning the care of foreign workers was reached, did the conditions continue as they originally existed when you took office?

A I can hardly say that. I can only say that Mende has tried to do his task with the utmost devotion. I also have to say that at the time when I entered office, all these matters have not been ordered and presented great difficulties. I have already stated previously that it was my task when taking over office to change around the then existing points of view of the Germans concerning foreign workers by 180 degrees, because then it was feared that the equality of conditions given to the foreign workers would have a bad effect on the Germans living there. I have already mentioned the barbed wire incident in

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Russian camps. With that I don't only mean Germans in themselves, but I especially mean certain German posts, such as police posts, and so on.

Q There was, however, no formal clarification of the tasks regarding the transport of these workers until the agreement of 1943 with Dr. Ley?

A After 1943 it was the task of the Reichsbahn to carry through the transports as well as possible. This then was a very difficult time, and these matters had not been ordered. Naturally, people from the labor administration from the respective countries were obliged to accompany the transport and see that the necessary care was being given.

I remember giving the order that stoves should be installed in railway compartments, where they did not exist. I remember all that being ordered from my Department Six and similar things like that.

Q Before the Ley agreement, did the personnel who accompanied the transports come from your sections in the occupied countries, or from where did they come?

A As far as my recollection goes, the people had been sent either from the labor offices or from soldiers of the military authority of occupied territories.

Q When the transports arrived in the transient labor camps, whose task then was it to furnish the guards for them?

A I really cannot say anything about this, because I never concerned myself with that. I think, however, that the guards were a matter for the police. It might be possible, too, however, that

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people from the labor offices have also been assigned to do guard duties. I have never concerned myself with that. It is quite sure that outside the camps there were police guards. What the position was, inside, I don't know. I am sure there was no police inside the camp.

Q It was, however, the task of your department to provide for the safe care of the workers when they arrived at the transient labor camps, was it not?

A Yes, naturally. Some camps which were inspected were marvellously furnished and some were only primitively furnished, where I had to carry through improvements. For instance, the exemplary furnished camps at Potsdam and Rebruecke, I recollect them because at the time when no more workers came from the West, we took this camp over for our own administration. I have given the order that all these camps have to be furnished and equipped in the same way as the camps of the German Labor Service. I have instituted a general welfare post for that, of which Generalarbeitsfuehrer Gretschmann was in charge, who at the same time was a delegate in Italy. For this purpose he had been given a number of experts in his small staff.

Q Now, as to the agreement of 1943 with Dr. Ley, did the personnel from the occupied countries still accompany the transports, or did his personnel then take over the task?

A This might have been done in various forms. One has to remember that labor was very scarce, and a lot of the personnel was drafted by the Wehrmacht, but the merely technical details of the transmission

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of the Russians into the transient camps and the transmission of the workers of from the transient camps into the industrial establishments were only tasks of the labor administration.

Q When you say "labor administration", what do you mean?

A The labor allocation administration, with that I mean my own administration. The task of accompanying the people was to care for the physical welfare of the persons.

Q For a moment, I want to turn our attention to Holland. It is my understanding that the quotas for the workers from Holland were agreed upon, and then the numbers given to the Reichskommissar Seyss-Inquart to fulfill, is that correct?

A Yes, that is correct. As far as I know, Seyss-Inquart very much concerned himself with these affairs. Unfortunately, I only had the opportunity to visit Seyss-Inquart twice. I remember that my problem with Holland was very difficult for me, because the labor situation in Holland was very much dependent on the economic situation then prevailing there.

Q In connection with fulfilling these quotas which were assigned to Seyss-Inquart, what was the task of your representatives?

A The tasks of my representatives were to carry through the technical advisory tasks and propagandistic tasks, according to my point of view. The situation in Holland was a very difficult one for me, because of the personnel situation. At first there was nobody there who represented me, but I think on two occasions people from the Party Chancellory carried through this work. I do not want to say that there

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were none of my men there at all, but the leading personalities there were people coming from the Party Chancellory. We did not come to any agreement as far as personnel there was concerned, because at last I had to give in, by allowing Seyss-Inquart to nominate the people that he wanted for the administration.

Q After the quota was given to Seyss-Inquart, it was his mission to fulfill it with the aid of your representatives, was it not?

A Yes. This was the only possible thing for me to do, and the same applied to other countries.

Q Was there considerable difficulty in Holland in fulfilling the quotas?

A My first journey to Holland was in April, 1942 and it was then agreed that 50,000 workers were wanted. This was a rather fortunate incident, because I easily succeeded in it.

Q That is '42?

A That is '42. Otherwise, the difficulties there arose as they arose in all other occupied territories; that is, as soon as the military situation there became more difficult, this labor situation was made difficult, too.

Q Now, the same procedure as existed in Holland was substantially followdd in Belgium under General Falkenhausen, was it not?

A Yes. Only in Belgium I continually had the same personnel, and it has not changed there as it had in Holland.

Q Then the position in France was somewhat different in the

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manner in which you outlined in accordance with your agreements with Monsieur Laval?

A In France, all these matters have been arranged with Monsieur Laval and his government representatives by the German Embassy there.

Q However, there was the cooperation between the representatives of Monsieur Laval and the representatives of the military commanding general in that area, was there not?

A Yes, naturally.

Q That was General Stuelpnagel?

A Stuelpnagel. In Belgium, general secretaries existed, and as far as I know these affairs have been arranged with the Belgium Secretary for Labor. The post of the Belgian General Secretary would match with the post of one of our Ministers, but that was not the case in France. I never visited these people there as regards material or technical matters, but I only saw them once or twice for the purpose of exchanging polite greetings.

Q Was the same procedure substantially followed of allocating quarters in the General Government Poland?

A Yes. I have to basically state again that the only possibility I had in carrying through these matters was to get in touch with the highest German military authority in the respective country and to transfer to them the orders of the Fuehrer and ask them very urgently, as I have always done, to fulfill these orders.

Q Such discussions in Poland, of course, were with the General Governor Frank?

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A Yes. I spent a morning and afternoon in Cracov twice or three times, and I personally spoke to General Governor Frank. Naturally, there was also present Secretary Dr. Goebble.

Q Was the same procedure followed within the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia?

A In Bohemia it was really a little different. There was an independent Czech government there, and I had no discussions with them. I spoke to Frank once or twice, and I once spoke to the representative of the protectorate, at that time General Daluege. I want to say that I had comparatively little to do in Bohemia, as this labor situation was for the most part already ordered at the time I entered my office.

Q During the course of your activities and discussions with representatives of the protectorate, was von Neurath still the Protector?

A I don't believe so. I personally have never spoken to von Neurath nor visited him. I really don't know if he was relieved from his post.

Q Had you had any discussions concerning this problem with Heydrich?

A I have not seen Heydrich in Prague at all. I have only seen Heydrich a single time, and that was after the taking over of my office when he asked me to see him at the Prinz Albrechtstrasse, in Berlin, where he told me his worries regarding security measures for foreign workers in Germany. But I have never discussed anything with Heydrich

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regarding Bohemian or Czechoslovakian workers. All discussions have only been held with Frank.

Q Was the procedure the same regarding discussions and allocations of quotas for the territory of the East with Rosenberg?

A As far as it concerns the Eastern territory, that was ordered through Reichsminister Rosenberg; yes. My representative was Staatsrat Peukert. Staatsrat Peukert had a very close connection with Rosenberg in his Department of Labor, and at the same time he was working for the Reichskommissar in the Ukraine, and he was also working in the Labor Staff East for General Stapf. This was an economic institution of the Four Year Plan, for the operational functions in the East which have been subordinate to the Army chiefs. In those three instances Staatsrat Peukert was my representative, as leader for the Department of Labor.

Q Substantially the same procedure regarding the check of the military commanders was followed in Italy, was it not?

A Exactly the same. They were the representatives of Germany there, and in their hands were all the executive powers. However, I cannot state in detail how these different channels between the respective police departments and military commanders were ordered. This was an affair which has been arranged between Himmler and Keitel, and I am not well informed on it. But the superior rights were naturally and clearly with the highest military authority or civilian authority in the respective occupied country. I personally never conferred with

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anybody about these people, only to the details, for instance, as to the distribution of different classifications of workers. These methods have been discussed by my experts that accompanied me, and the experts that existed in the respective administrations of the country.

Q Such methods in Italy on the military side were arranged by Kesselring and Obergruppenfuehrer Wolff, weren't they?

A Yes. I spoke to Kesselring as well as to the German General Tussaint and also to his successor, General Wolff. Apart from these people, I have also conferred since 1943 with Dr. Landfried, who was in charge of the economic post there. Dr. Landfried there had a similar position to Dr. Michael in Paris with Stuelpnagel. In Italy, as in France, these methods have also been discussed with the German delegation, with the delegate Rahn.

Q To whom in Denmark was the task of accomplishing these methods given?

A Denmark was of comparatively little importance to us, but I remember one Dr, who was one man that was responsible for labor, but I do not know his name, as I did not concern myself with it.

Q Was it necessary in order to accomplish the completion of the quotas given to have liaison with the OKW?

A I remember that the Fuehrer had given directives to Marshal Keitel, telling him that my task was a very important one, and I, too, have often conferred with Keitel after such discussions with the Fuehrer, when I asked him for his support.

Q It was his task to supervise the proper performance of the

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military commanders in the occupied countries in carrying out their assigned mission, was it not?

A Yes. The Fuehrer had told me that he would inform the chief of the OKW, and the Chief of the Reichschancellory, as to these matters. The same applies to the Foreign Minister.

Q The methods by which the quotas were filled in the occupied countries was the task of the civilian or military commander concerned, as we have just discussed before, was it Not?

A Yes, naturally. Yes, the executive rights naturally rested with him. However, he received advice and technical expert advice from the representative of the labor administration.

Q What was the relation of the Foreign Office to this program?

A The relation of the Foreign Office in this respect was that they had to support these questions in France or Italy or in any neutral country where they arose. I have tried to discuss these methods only in an embassy, and presiding over these discussions was only the Foreign Service representative. There was a quarrel between my office and the Foreign Office. The reason for that was that the Foreign Office wanted to preside over all these discussions, even concerning the Balkans, and I decided this question in favor of the Foreign Office against my own administration. I have mentioned the experts that dealt with that. It was a Ministerialrat of Department Five. I have forgotten his name for the moment.

Q With whom in the Foreign Office was it decided to have this representative supervise the conscription in the Balkans?

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A This was discussed with Dr. Kieser from the Foreign Office, and he was acting under orders from Dr. Luther, who was State Secretary at the time, but most of these people have been transferred later on. Dr. Kieser went to the Wehrmacht or the Waffen SS, and there were some differences with Dr. Luther, which I do not know in detail.

Q Is there any reason to suppose that the Foreign Minister was not informed of the relation of his ministry to this activity?

A You mean the special case of presiding over discussions in neutral countries, or do you mean the situation in general?

Q The situation in general.

A The Foreign Minister has been informed about this question. He has even been at discussions with the Fuehrer while I was present too, and where such questions were discussed. I visited him once. I visited him once at his field quarters in East Prussia, and he continually promised me his support.

Q As concerns the particular Balkan question of Chairman of the meeting, do you know whether or not he was informed of that?

A I do not know about this special case, but I know that he attached the greatest importance that no Foreign Office question that dealt with any neutral country should be dealt with by anybody but his office.

Q Did you ever have any conversation with Speer in which he protested that too many workers were being brought into Germany?

A I couldn't give him enough workers. I had continual differences with him. But the question regarding the closing of factories

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in France, this has, however, nothing to do with the question of too many or too few foreign workers in Germany. He had armament works of his own in France, and he closed these armament factories for the purpose of taking their workers over into Germany. However, as he wanted me to give him skilled workers, the case was that I only would have been able to obtain the skilled workers from the factories. This question has always been a source of quarrel between us. There cannot be any talk about too many foreign workers, because I really could not fulfill the requirements that he put to me in the last two years. He very jealously supervised the situation, to see that I was not tempted to put too many workers into agriculture, and so take them away from his armament work. I personally had no interest to bring the workers into Germany for myself. I only brought them into Germany in order to match the requirements of the respective people that wanted them.

Q As a matter of fact, Speer was constantly requiring and requesting more and more workers for his armament industry, wasn't he?

A Yes.

Q Rather than opposing the addition of workers?

A This is quite out of the question. It has been talked about however, how far the proportion of German manpower to foreign manpower was in relation to security, but that had nothing to do with the question of requesting additional foreign workers to come to Germany.

Q I think we had better stop here.

INTERROGATOR INTERPRETER COURT REPORTER

Auszuege der Aussage von Fritz Sauckel in Nurnberg, Deutschland, am 5. Oktober 1945, von 10.30 bis 12 durch Major John J. Monigan Jr., GSC, OUSCC. Dolmetscher Siegfried Kanler. Berichterstatter Unteroffizier William L. Feigel.

Seite 10.

Frage: Ich moechte fuer einen Augenblick unsere Aufmerksamkeit auf Holland wenden. Ich verstehe Sie dahingehend dass die Quota der Arbeiter von Holland vereinbart war und dass alsdann die Zahl dem Reichskommissar Seyss Inquart gegeben wurde um sie zu fuellen. Ist das richtig?

Antwort: Ja, das ist richtig.

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Frage: Ist es richtig dass die Quota nachdem sie Seyss Inquart gegeben war von ihm mit Hilfe Ihrer Vertreter erfuellt wurde?

Antwort: Ja, dies war der einzig moegliche Weg fuer mich und dies wuerde in anderen Laendern in derselben Weise gehandhabt.

Seite 12.

Frage: Wurde dieselbe Handhabung befolgt wenn es sich um Quoten im Gebiet des Generalgouvernement Polen handelte?

Antwort: Ja, ich muss grundsaetzlich erneut sagen, dass die einzige Moeglichkeit diese Sache durchzufuehren darin bestand, sich mit der hoechsten deutschen Militaerbehoerde in dem betreffenden Land in Verbindung zu setzen und die Befehle des Fuehrers zu uebermitteln und aeusserst dringlich auf deren Erfuellung zu bestehen.

Frage: Waren diese Diskussionen in Polen mit dem Generalgouverneur Frank?

Antwort: Ja, ich verbrachte einen Morgen und nachmittag in Krakau zwei oder drei Mal und sprach mit Generalgouverneur Frank persoenlich. Natuerlich war auch Sekretaer Dr. Goebbls anwesend.

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Frage: War die Handhabung die gleiche wenn es sich um Diskussionen und Auferlegung von Quoten fuer das Ostgebiet mit Rosenberg handelte?

Antwort: Soweit es die oestlichen Gebiete betraf, wurde es durch Reichminister Rosenberg befohlen; ja. Mein Vertreter war Staatsrat Peukert. Staatsrat Peukert hatte eine sehr enge Verbindung mit Rosenberg in seinem Arbeitsministerium und er arbeitete ebenfalls in dem Arbeitsstab Ost fuer General Stapf. Dies war eine wirtschaftliche Einrichtung des Vier Jahres Plans fuer die ausfuehrende Funktionen im Osten die den Armeeoberkommandanten unterstellt war. In diesen drei Beziehungen war Staatsrat Peukert mein Vertreter als Fuehrer des Arbeitsministeriums.

Seite 15.

Frage: War es fuer die Erfuellung der Quot notwendig eine Verbindung mit dem Oberkommando der Wehrmacht zu haben?

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Antwort: Ich erinnere, dass der Fuehrer dem Marschall Keitel Anweisungen gegeben hatte dahingehend dass meine Aufgabe ausserordentlich wichtig sei und ich selbst habe oefters mit Keitel nach solchen Diskussionen mit dem Fuehrer conferiert und ihn um seinen Beistand gebeten.

Frage: Ist es richtig, dass es seine Aufgabe war, die vorschriftsmaessige Ausfuehrung der aufgetragenen Befehle durch seine militaerischen Kommandeure in den besetzten Gebieten zu ueberwachen?

Antwort: Ja. Der Fuehrer sagte mir, dass er den Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht und den Chef der Reichskanzlei wegen dieser Angelegenheit informieren werde. Dasselbe gilt fuer das Auswaertige Amt.

Frage: Ist es richtig, dass die Methode in welcher Weise die Quota AM in den besetzten Gebieten gefuellt wurde, die Aufgabe des jeweiligen zivilen oder militaerischen Kommandeurs war, wie wir soeben festgestellt haben?

Antwort: Ja, natuerlich. Ja, die ausfuehrenden Rechte gehoerten ihm natuerlicherweise, aber wir erhielten Rat und technische sachverstaendige Beratung von dem Vertreter der Arbeitsverwaltung.

UEBERSETZUNGSBESCHEINIGUNG

24 November 1945

Ich, LEO LOEB, bescheinige hiermit, dass ich sorgfaeltig mit der deutschen und englischen Sprache bekannt bin, und dass das vorhergehende eine wahrheitsgemaesse und genaue Uebersetzung von Auszuegen der Aussage von Fritz Saukel in Nurnberg, Deutschland, am 5. Oktober 1945, durch Major John B. Monigan Jr. ist.

LEO LOEB -
Zivilist.

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3722-PS

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 19 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 3722-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-224 in the Trial by the International Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3422-PS No. USA-224 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Paul Joosten

Nuremberg, 25 June 1948 PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

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EXHIBIT U.S.A. 224 (3722-PS)

Filed Dec. 17, 1945
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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIALS · NÜRNBERG ·

EXHIBIT U.S.A.

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20 pages